Objectives of extension activities

2858. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of 'Frontline Demonstrations' and other extension activities;

(b) whether such programmes have been successful in improving farmers' access to latest developments in agriculture; and

(c) whether any assessment has been done to judge the utility of such programmes with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The major objective of Frontline Demonstrations is to prove the production potentialities of the newly developed crop production technologies and also study factors contributing to higher production. The other extension activities are undertaken mainly to create awareness about the newly improved and high yielding technologies among the farming communities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The results of Frontline Demonstrations in different crops have been analysed and discussed at various forums. The increase in productivity has gone up in different crops and cropping systems ranging from 25 to 100 per cent depending upon the agro-climatic regions. The improved technology has spread among the farmers.

Access to new technologies through ICAR

2859. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has achieved success in assisting farmers to adopt new technologies leading to higher productivity and yields;

(b) whether ICAR can give illustrations of successful projects in recent times where farmers gained substantially through the research of ICAR; and

(c) if so, the details of crops and the results achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The result of hybrid rice variety of APHR 1.2 and DRRH-3 was found 8.5 Tonnes/ha. and 5.5 Tonnes/ha, respectively on farmers field which was substantially higher than the local check. Likewise, under oilseed programme, Groundnut variety ICGS-44 result was found 16 quintals/ha. under Front-line demonstrations conducted by the KVK in Andhra Pradesh and farmers received 62 per cent higher yield in compare to local check. Under Front-like demonstrations on Pulse crop result of Red gram variety ICPL 87089 was found 10.22 quintals/ha. which was 65 per cent higher than the local check.

Long term training by ICAR

2860. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister or AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR is involved in any long-term vocation based and skill oriented training for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds spent on such long-term, vocation based and skill oriented training for farmers in 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(d) the details of such programmes being implemented in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To organise long term vocation-based ad nskill oriented training for farmers is one of the important mandate of KVKs. The types and nature of vocational training programmes are deci-